

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-31 (cancelled).

32 (previously presented). A method of treating a patient having a neurodegenerative disorder comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate, thereby elevating the patient's blood levels of ketone bodies, defined as the sum total of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, to a therapeutic level effective to treat the disorder, wherein the patient's blood level is elevated to from 0.3mM to 20mM and wherein the disorder is memory loss.

33 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the metabolic precursor is selected from the group consisting of free fatty acids the metabolism of which is through β -oxidation, and medium chain length triglycerides.

34 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Alzheimer's disease.